

# The Washington Times

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## Consider the Baby Hippo and Yourself

A few days ago in the Bronx Zoo Mrs. Hippopotamus presented New York with a new baby hippo.

He will not have to search in swamps and underbrush for his food or dodge the bullets of big game hunters who seek his two-inch-thick hide as a souvenir.

From his birth he will be carefully looked after. His tank of water will be kept at a proper temperature for his comfort and health. His food will be brought to him and served at regular hours. His home will be kept clean and wholesome, and his health will be looked after with great care.

If when he grows up he could go to Africa to visit some of his native relatives, he could truthfully tell them that during his whole life he had been waited on by those much more intelligent than himself, but that were nevertheless his servants.

When you go out to see the young hippo think of the resemblance between your situation and his.

Did you ever stop to consider how many minds—great minds—are working for you?

Men are designing and building great ships that you may have the output of foreign countries delivered at your door.

The experts of a great Government are studying and delving that you may have better foods and better surroundings.

The Edisons and the Bells and the Wrights and all the other great men of inventive genius are reaching into the unknown to produce something that will add to your comfort or health or happiness.

No matter how humble you are, you are the beneficiary of a whole world of endeavor.

Of course, you have a great advantage over the baby hippo. He will go through life without doing a single thing to repay the care and attention that is given him.

You have the power to make return for all that is given you.

You can be a producer. You can add to the wealth or health or happiness of the world, if you but make use of the powers that have been given you.

Production is the result of THOUGHT plus ENERGY. To work without thinking makes you no better than a machine.

Think while you work, and your work will be easier and better done. Think about things worth while, things that are profitable and beneficial.

A blacksmith became a great preacher because as he blew his forge he read good books, which he fastened to his chimney.

Thousands of men have accumulated great knowledge in odd moments and while they were engaged in working long hours for small pay.

Fifteen minutes a day is a very little while. But in a year that amounts to 5,475 minutes. Even if you read slowly, you could read two hundred words a minute, and that would mean more than a million words in a year.

Thinks of the wisdom in a million words of carefully selected reading.

If you are young, you can be like the baby hippo and grow up and exist on the efforts of others, never producing anything yourself. Or you can begin now to make yourself of value to the world and to your fellow-man. It is all up to you.

## Once-Overs

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LET YOUR FRIENDS DO THE BOOSTING.

By J. J. MUNDY.

You are forming the very bad and disagreeable habit of praising yourself, your methods and your ideas, hammering it into everyone you meet.

It is just possible that your friends and acquaintances have chosen you because they recognize your merit, and instead of caring to hear how wonderful you are by your flat statements, suppose you make your conversation up to the standard of your acknowledged reputation.

But you say you have to tell them; else how would they know about you.

Just remember that every time you tell how much you are worth, how great your talents, or your ideas, you have weakened outside opinion. The man who is head and shoulders above the rest of his class is recognized for just what he is.

If you think there is no one who is up to your standard watch your step, for you may get the surprise of your life.

Modesty in speech is as desirable as modesty in manners. And the man or the woman who is truly great is the last one to say so.

If you can deliver the real goods you will win out quicker by letting the other fellow do the talking about you.

## Stop Him!



## Beatrice Fairfax Writes of the Problems and Pitfalls of Workers Here Especially For Washington Women

DEAR MISS FAIRFAX:

I have been in the service for quite a while, and have two more years to go. I met a girl in this city since I have been stationed here and I am what any one would say in love. I know that the girl cares for me, but what worries me is this. If it were in my means to marry her, I would, but that is quite a foolish thing to do, as you know a service man cannot give his wife what a person could if he were in civilian life. I have spoken to her about this, telling her the reason why I would not take her until I get out of the service. Being a girl of good sense she agrees with me. Now, if I do not do something I fear that I will either have to change our methods from the present standpoint to just friendship. But I do not want to lose her. Do you think that it is selfish to ask a girl to wait that long? H. B. D.

If the girl really cares for you, she will not mind waiting the two years until you are out of the service but you must be entirely sure you are going to marry her then, otherwise you have no right to take two years of her life now. If she is working, too, you both might try to save what you can during these two years so you will have a little nest egg when you go back into civilian life. Play square with the girl and give her no cause to regret waiting and I think your romance will turn out happily.

He Should Try to Win The Girl He Loves.

DEAR MISS FAIRFAX:

Love is as disastrous as it is wonderful. I am on the verge of marrying and am up against it. There are two girls in the case. Of course, I love one more than I do the other, but I figure the one I love most does not love me as much as the other one does. I love the one most that don't love me. So you can readily see what I am up against. The one I love don't love me and the one I don't love does love me. Pray tell me what to do. I don't want to give either one of them up until I marry. Please give me your advice as soon as possible, as I cannot sleep, eat or work. And to get them off my mind is impossible. J. P.

Like most persons very much in love you do not make yourself entirely clear. You do not say whether the one you most love is the one you are about to marry or not, therefore I shall have to answer as best I can. In the first place no one has a right to marry a person they do not love. Marriage is difficult enough under the most auspicious circumstances, but it is very uncomfortable for the one who doesn't love. I shall suppose that you love the girl you are about to marry but fear that she doesn't really love you. Let me tell you that ninety-nine men out

## Answers to Correspondents

of a hundred experience the same sensation on the eve of their marriage. You are just like a person having stage fright and the truth of the matter probably is that the girl is just as much in love as you are but is fearing you don't love her enough. My criticism of you is that you have two girls "on the string." It is an awfully good plan to be well off with the old love before you are on with the new. The thing to do is to eliminate ONE girl—as far as you are concerned—the girl to eliminate is the one you don't love because of course nothing happy could result there even if she does love you. Then when you have your whole time to devote to THE ONE girl, go ahead and win her. I think you can.

DEAR MISS FAIRFAX:

I am a young girl twenty-two years of age and engaged. The boy I'm engaged to is out of the city at present finishing his schooling. He has been away for two years, and will probably be away for another year before we can see each other often. Then when he returns we will be unable to marry for another year since he is studying medicine, and we both agree that he should have a little time in which to get started when he graduates, knowing that it would make matters extremely difficult should he undertake starting a home and profession at the same time.

During the two years of his absence I have been to see him perhaps four times a year, and we always correspond regularly. Now this is where my puzzle starts. I have been wondering if I have been doing wrong. You see, before I met him I always went around to dances and had real good times. After we started going together, of course, I dropped dancing to some extent, although occasionally we went to

a dance. Being used to having a good time, I couldn't give up my good times and sit home for all the time he's been away. It was different when he was in the city, for then I had him all the time, and was perfectly satisfied, but do you think I am doing wrong by attending dances in his absence? I work all day and do not think it is fair to have to stay home all the time and give up everything. Please get me straight on this. I admit I haven't told him that I still go around, and I know that it would result in a big fuss and row if I did. I am not of a demonstrative nature, but I love this boy. The others with whom I go in his absence are merely good and agreeable friends to me, nothing more. FRANKIE.

Your difficulty is the one all girls who enter long engagements experience. Personally I don't believe in them because the girl particularly always takes the risk of waiting several years on the chance that the young man's feelings will have changed by the time he graduates. If you are willing to allow this young man the same social freedom you yourself are enjoying, I see no harm in your having fun and diversion while your fiancé is at school. If you don't have it during these next few years, you never will have it at all. The young man is probably not spending all his time on his studies. If he is, he is quite different from most boys away from school. As long as you don't object to him having a good time while he is away from you, I cannot see any reason for his objecting to your enjoying yourself. Both of you will be better off under such an arrangement.

DEAR MISS FAIRFAX:

There is a certain young gentle-

man with whom I quarreled on Christmas Day. I received a large box of flowers with an apology from him. As I do not intend to renew our recent friendship, I should like to know if I should thank him or not, and if so, how to do so without putting us on friendly terms again. "NAUGHTY VAMP."

Just send the unfortunate young man a simple note thanking him for his Christmas remembrance and nothing more. It's a pity, isn't it, that it is your sort of girl who gets nice flowers from nice young men.

DEAR MISS FAIRFAX:

I have been reading your advice to the lovers in The Times carefully every evening, and have yet to see a case similar to my own. I am a girl twenty-seven years, and am really and truly in love with a man twenty-two. Am positive he loves me, as he comes to see me most every week and usually brings me a box of candy every pay day. We have been going together for the past five years, and Miss Fairfax, what I can't understand is, although I know he loves me, he has never shown the slightest signs of affection. And I am one who craves affection. Do you think I would be doing wrong in dropping him and going with some one who is more affectionate?

Now, Miss Fairfax, this has worried me into very ill health. Do you think our ages have anything to do with it? When he is out with me and he sees some younger girls he knows he speaks to them and is very indifferent to me. To drop him entirely would break my heart. My mother died about fifteen years ago, and has, therefore, left me to care for myself.

MISS MARY.

It seems extraordinary that this young man has shown no affection in five years and would indicate that he looks upon you only as a pal. Considering the difference in your ages, it is time you understood whether he intends anything more or not, because, otherwise, you will waste your marriageable years and arrive at thirty without a real sweetheart. I agree with the woman who declares she would marry a man ten minutes younger than herself, although, of course, we all know of instances where marriages where the woman was the older have been successful. I myself know a very happy marriage where the two people had almost every obstacle to contend with—difference in religion and ten years difference in age, on the woman's side. Such a case is the exception, however, and not the rule. Of course, the fact that the young man has been interested for five years augurs well for you, but even he ought to consider it about time he made his intentions known.

## Much Twaddle and Guesswork About Inefficient Federal Employees

By BILL PRICE.

Periodically somebody or some organization breaks out with voluntary figures about thousands of superfluous, "inefficient" employees on the rolls of the Federal Government. They sometimes name the exact number that can easily be dropped from the rolls, 15,000 or 20,000, and in one case 35,000 were to be dropped by Congress.

It is a fact that there are superfluous Federal employees—everybody knows it—but the giving of figures is mere twaddle and guesswork, as is most of the stuff that is intended to reflect upon the great mass of hard-working, loyal employees of Uncle Sam. There is no way to determine how many INEFFICIENT employees there are in the service. The Reclassification Commission can and will find out how many may be SUPERFLUOUS, but the fault for this lies with Congress. Appropriations for the pay of clerks during the present fiscal year were made many months ago, without the slightest elasticity and without regard to changed conditions. Administrative officers have retained employees they could have done without. There was no Government commission to require them to get rid of unnecessary help. Employees have had no reason to discharge themselves.

And efficiency in every department and bureau is a matter of valuable administrative officers. Employees in every establishment in the world measure up to what is required of them. It is the same in industry or private business. The employee is often what the man above him is. Inefficiency is human if tolerated.

In nearly all instances of pompous personal opinion of inefficiency the author is superficial. He has scanned the force in one bureau or division and judges all by that. Often, too, efficiency is a matter of individual opinion. What one man might consider a worthy, capable force of men and women another would deem incapable.

The mean part of some of this is that it is just a lingering of the old idea that Government clerks have soft snaps, are richly paid, and may be pounced upon by any statesman or anybody who wants to make capital for himself. There are cheap party politics in it, too. The political party which wants to get power must have something with which to attack the party in power, and the gladsome tidings are spread that Washington is filled with thousands of superfluous workers put in by the "inefficient administration in power."

Hard-working, conscientious Government employees by the thousands will welcome any civil service reorganization by Congress, upon recommendations of the Reclassification Commission, that will give genuine recognition to faithfulness, loyalty, and good work and which, most of all, will eliminate the opportunities for the quack and political bunco artist to attack an entire body for shortcomings chargeable to a few.

It is a convincing, pathetic testimonial to the fidelity of the great bulk of Government employees that they are today working for the United States Government for an average compensation of 72 cents per year more than was paid the employees of 1823. It's a safe bet that there was less howling over salaries paid Government employees seventy or eighty years ago than there is now, when so many doctors are offering prescriptions for saving the patient, Uncle Sam.

Those 1823 clerks could well afford to be indifferent to what was said about them.



FELIX MAHONY, whose successes as an artist are national in scope, likes the new heading for Heard and Seen.

"Lots of luck for you and your delightful column," he writes.

At the District Building, CONNIE SYME'S District Building friends are bidding him good-bye and good luck at luncheon at Harvey's today.

Dr. JOHN VAN SCHAICK, who is waiting to take up the duties of District Commissioner, is back from New York, where he went for the holiday season.

It has not escaped the attention of the W. R. & E. that the United Railways Company of Baltimore is collecting a straight 7 cents fare. What will they do about it?

February's Five Sundays.

How long since February had five Sundays, as it will have in 1920? J. S. H. [Will some of our calendar sharks look this up and answer?—Editor.]

The Times As a Good Thing.

J. H. HULBERT, general superintendent of the District of Columbia Paper Manufacturing Company, ordered The Times sent to a man in Massachusetts and added this comment:

So many people in other cities entertain erroneous opinions regarding Washington that it is difficult to convince them conditions are not bad; so the best way is to send them The Times for a few months. We need direct help in our pulp and paper mill and after they see The Times they will feel like coming to Washington.

Even marriage experts ought to learn that there is no telling what Cupid will do. Col. WILLIAM A. KROLL, of the marriage license bureau, after all his years of watching Cupid's antics, lost a good box of cigars on a bet that the 1919 marriage record in the District would not exceed that of 1918, the banner year. He lost by 470 licenses.

She's Peckish Washing Dishes. EVA FEVERHAM, twelve years old, sends us this:

I'm forever washing dishes. Greasy dishes in the sink. They are piled so high. Nearly reach the sky. Then, like my dreams, they fade away.

Dishes always hiding. I've looked everywhere. I'm forever washing dishes. Greasy dishes in the sink.

Do all of our girl readers feel this way about the dishes? Many girls say they like to wash dishes; that they get fun out of it if they sing as they go along. The happiest birds are those that sing. Anyhow, let's hear from other girls on this subject. What do you like to do best? Why?

SAM FLAHERTY, of the QUEEK LUNCH, says that he "ain't agoin'" to send off any New Year's cards, "for he 'didn't ferget ennybody on Xmas'."

Uncovered Ash Carts. With his mouth half filled with ashes blown by strong winds from a District ash car, a Heard and Seen reader called this office by telephone to protest against these wagons going through the city uncovered. Police regulations require farmers coming into or going out of the city to have covers for some of the products they haul. Why should ash carts be covered by ashes from the city?